

Veterans' Services

Fiscal Year 2002

VETERANS' BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans' Services continues to offer assistance to veterans and their families through a number of federal and state programs. The state veterans' benefits program provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families who qualify to receive benefits and can show need. These benefits provide for medical care and cash for living expenses.

The Department of Veterans' Services will also aid veterans and their families in the filing of federal forms that are necessary for them to receive a wide range of benefits provided by the Veterans Administration. The Department now has access to many veteran-related internet sites and government agencies.

FISCAL YEAR 2002

At the start of FY 2002, the effects of the economic downturn had not affected the job outlook in our area. The amount of benefits paid continued to shrink as more of our veteran population was gainfully employed.

Then came the tragic events of September 11th, and once again we were faced with increased military activity and the commitment of more troops to combat roles. Eventually these troops will return and require the services and care we have traditionally provided to our veterans.

While there will not be an immediate increase in demand for service, the Department will continue to build relations with local businesses and schools to ensure that veterans will have education and job opportunities upon their return. Veterans' Services will also keep veterans' issues in the forefront so that needed legislative action will be taken to ensure that our current non-wartime veterans will receive the benefits that their comrades are currently entitled to.

If you are a veteran or you have a friend or relative who has served in the armed forces, we are asking that they register with our office so that we can better serve their needs and are able to give them the latest and best information available.

Rod Raubeson
Director of Veterans' Services